ChemStation®

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INSIGHTS

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Getting the Right Extinguisher

Fire extinguishers are labeled according to the type of fire on which they may be used. Fires involving wood or cloth, flammable liquids, electrical, or metal sources react differently to extinguishers. Using one type of extinguisher on the wrong type of fire could be dangerous and make matters even worse. Traditionally, the labels A, B, C or D have been used to indicate the type of fire on which an extinguisher is to be used.

A **Type A Label** is in a triangle on the extinguisher. This extinguisher is used for ordinary combustibles such as cloth, wood, rubber and many plastics. These types of fires usually leave ashes after they burn. (Type A extinguishers for ashes.)

A **Type B Label** is in a square on the extinguisher. This extinguisher is used for flammable liquid fires such as oil, gasoline, paints, lacquers, grease and solvents. These substances often come in barrels. (Type B extinguishers for barrels.)

A **Type C Label** is in a circle on the extinguisher. This extinguisher is used for electrical fires such as in wiring, fuse boxes, energized electrical equipment and other electrical sources. Electricity travels in currents. (Type C extinguishers for currents.)

A **Type D Label** is in a star on the extinguisher. This extinguisher is used for metal fires such as magnesium, titanium and sodium. These types of fires are very dangerous and seldom handled by the general public. (Type D for don't get involved.) ■

Ouch! That Burns

Most of you have seen the warning signs and even some have experienced its unforgiving nature: Corrosive Materials. What is really going on though? Let's talk chemicals!



A corrosive chemical causes visible destruction of, or irreversible alterations in living tissue by chemical action at the site of contact. Yeah, so what? You've heard this before but why does it burn? Let's look at an example like sodium hydroxide, chemically written as NaOH. Sodium hydroxide separates in water to sodium cations (positively charged sodium atoms: Na^+) and hydroxide anions (negatively charged oxygen and hydrogen atoms: OH^-). The separation of these ions creates very reactive materials, especially when they interact with other surfaces or substances; i.e., skin. The ions, mainly OH^- will begin to oxidize or deteriorate your skin causing your body to signal a burning sensation…ouch!

Corrosive materials pose serious immediate risk to skin, tissues, eyes and other parts of the body. Consult the MSDS for emergency first aid procedures. ■

June in Review

It's National Safety Month – to emphasize safety in all aspects of life. June is also Effective Communications Month – to acknowledge that the most important cog in the wheel of relationships is communication. On June 5, 1783, the first sustained flight occurred as a hot-air balloon was launched at Annonay, France, by brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier. The 60th observance of D-Day happens on June 6, the day in 1944 when the largest amphibious landing in history began as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the north coast of France. On June 8, 1874, Apache leader Cochise died on the Chiricahua Reservation in southeastern Arizona. June 14, 1777 marks the day John Adams introduced a resolution before Congress mandating a United States flag. This anniversary is celebrated each year in the U.S. as Flag Day. Also on June 14, 1951, Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled in Philadelphia. Father's Day is June 20 this year (always the third Sunday in June). June 23 has been designated "Let it Go Day" so that whatever it is that's bugging you…drop it!





We Can Do It

Need a solution to soak those gaskets in to make final product assembly quick, easy and meet all your "other" needs? We do it.

Are you a food processing facility that needs to use Kosher-certified products in your plant or a food hauler who is required to clean your vehicle with Kosher-certified cleaners? Many of our Manufacturing Centers are Kosher-certified.

Do you have the world's worst tow motor tire marks on the floor of your warehouse? We can clean them up.

Got a problem cleaning those yellow stains off the surface in your egg wash? We have the solution to that problem!

How about removing that 1/2"-thick rubber buildup at your tire manufacturing plant? Yes, we can do that, too.

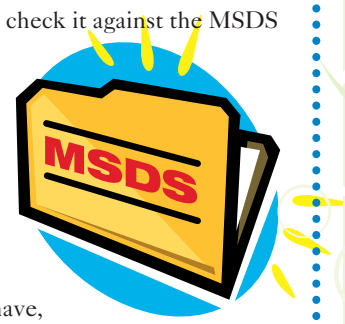
With the ChemStation system and our team of chemists, you can be sure we'll find a solution to whatever cleaning challenges you have. We've been "Keeping it Clean" for 20 years. ■

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MSDS Audit Program

If you haven't already, your business should establish a tradition of reviewing your MSDSs and your chemical inventory on a regular basis. Regularly conducted "audits" of workplace MSDSs can help keep you from trouble during an inspection.

Keep a "master" file with the most current MSDSs in it, marked with an appropriate "version" number, such as the date it arrived in your facility. When an MSDS comes in, check it against the MSDS list. If it is new:



- Add the chemical to the master list
- Put a copy of the MSDS into the master MSDS file
- Provide copies to each department that will use the new chemical

If it is a copy of an MSDS you already have, see if it contains changes or updates from the one you have on file.

Periodically review all MSDSs in your facility. MSDSs can become dirty, smudged, or otherwise unreadable, or can be torn out and not replaced; replace missing MSDSs immediately.

Hold refresher training on the MSDS system used in your workplace and how to read an MSDS. Your ChemStation sales representative can help you with copies of our "How To Read an MSDS" in English and Spanish. ■



Send your comments to:

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Soapbox

Think gas is expensive? Check this out…

Diet Snapple	$10.32/gal
Gatorade	$10.17/gal
Brake Fluid	$33.60/gal
White Out	$25.42/gal
Scope	$84.48/gal
Vick's Nyquil	$178.13/gal
Pepto Bismol	$123.20/gal

Borrow money from pessimists…they don't expect it back.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Did you know that Saturn's rings are about 500,000 miles in circumference but only about a foot thick?

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?

A critic is a man who knows the way but can't drive the car.

When you eat with someone else, calories don't count if you don't eat more than they do.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times.

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

Experience is the worst teacher; it gives the test before presenting the lesson.

Life is easier to take than you think; all that is necessary is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable and bear the intolerable. – *Kathleen Norris*

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